Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

279. Whether there have not been defalcations and misappropriations in the several departments in the State, especially during the last four or five years, and whether the Government have not discovered that the root cause for these can be traced to the too inadequate salary paid by the Government ?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

There have been instances; but Government doubt whether inadequate salary can be an inducement to them any more than a fat salary can be a guarantee against them.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

280. Do the Government know that the Madras Government, after very elaborate enquiries revised their scale of salary, in regard to the low-paid servants since the last four or five years?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

It appears they have.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

281. Do not the Government recognise that the economic and other conditions in the Cochin State are practically the same as in the Malabar District of the Madras Presidency?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

May be.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

282. Do not the Government think that this unnatural situation in our State is one that calls for immediate steps being taken, and the position of both the Government and the now low-paid staff placed on an enduring basis?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Not that the Government are unsympathetic. It is a question of funds.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

283. Will the Government follow the standard of salary fixed in the Madras Presidency, and if not, why not?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Government cannot say one way or the other without examining what that standard will cost here.

Officers and chances for promotion.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

284. Are the Government aware that under the existing system a large number of officers get no chance for promotion,

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and are kept in the background, even though they have the necessary qualifications, capacity and long experience. Do not the Government recognise that this is unfair? If so, will they be pleased to take up and solve the anomaly at once?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

There are instances of the kind referred to. It is not easy to find an adequate remedy.

Petitions from the inhabitants of Trichur regarding the location of the Leper Asylum.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

285. Will the Government be pleased to place on the table orders passed by the Government on the petitions of the most-beloved and loyal subjects of Trichur, dated 17th November 1922, and on the petition to the Diwan of Cochin by Mr. K. C. Kochu Ouseph and others placed on the Council table as Appendix 2 with reference to answer to question No. 1, 5 (v)?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

No orders were passed on the petitions specifically. They were considered with the main question.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Were any orders passed on the petitions specifically?

PRESIDENT.

They were considered with the main question.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Are we to understand that petitions were rejected or recorded?

PRESIDENT.

That would be the effect.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

My question is with reference to the main question whether it should be located at Anappara or not.

PRESIDENT.

That question has already been disposed of by the Government.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

So the Government has some other objections.

PRESIDENT.

Government have decided upon a particular scheme, and are carrying out their object. Objections may be coming. In this case also objections have come.

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